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INFO RUCNCFE/CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEASWA/DTRA ALEX WASHINGTON DC//OSAE
RUESDT/DTRA-OSSES DARMSTADT GE
RHMFISS/CDR USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5-DDPMA-IN/CAC/DDPMA-E//
RUEAHQA/HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC//XONP//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 USOSCE 000195

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR VCI/CCA, EUR/RPM
NSC FOR NILSSON, HAYDEN
JCS FOR J5 NORWOOD,
OSD FOR ISA (KEHL, WALLENDER)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KCFE](#) [OSCE](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#)

SUBJECT: CFE/JCG: 2009 FALL OPENING OF ROUND--RUSSIA MORE
COMMITTED TO ACFE THAN ALLIES (SBU)

REF: A. STATE 92639
[1](#)B. STATE 92528

[1](#)1. (SBU) Summary. During the opening session of the Fall round of the Joint Consultative Commission (JCG) on September 8, USDel underscored the U.S. commitment to CFE, noted that Russia's "suspension" left an ominous gap in CFE's unique transparency and predictability, observed that Russia had also given indications of the value it places on the treaty, and called for efforts to sustain the core functions of the JCG. In reply, Russia claimed that it was obviously more committed to A/CFE than the U.S., as Russia had already ratified the adapted treaty. Germany and the U.S. criticized Russia for refusing CFE inspections in August and received statements of support from nine countries. The Chair announced the cancellation of the September 22 JCG due to a scheduled OSCE workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). End Summary.

[1](#)2. (SBU) The Fall session opened under the Chairmanship of Belgium (Kenes) with the U.S. (Neighbour) underscoring the U.S. commitment to CFE, noting Russia's "suspension" left an ominous gap in CFE's unique transparency and predictability, observing that Russia had also given indications of the value it places on the treaty, and calling for efforts to sustain the core functions of the JCG (Ref A). Intervening in support of the U.S. statement, The Netherlands (Kleinjan) underscored the great importance it attaches to CFE and said it deplores the fact that States Parties (SP) are entering the fourth semester in which one party is not implementing the Treaty. Kleinjan also reiterated The Netherlands full support for efforts outside the JCG to resolve the crisis.

[1](#)3. (SBU) Russia (Ulyanov) said he was pleased that the U.S. and The Netherlands confirmed their support for the CFE, but added that he doubted that either party was more committed to the treaty than Russia as, unlike Russia, neither party had ratified the adapted treaty, which he described as "unfulfilled Istanbul Commitments." Responding to points in the U.S. statement, Ulyanov said that Russia's decision to enact a moratorium on implementation of the Treaty in December 2007 was a difficult one, but one that was forced on it by the NATO partners. The situation has not changed and Russia can not return to implementation of the CFE Treaty. Ulyanov lamented that most SP declined to assist in working towards a solution, leaving the burden of negotiations on

Russia and the U.S. Finally, he noted that the list of tasks highlighted by the U.S. in its statement was incomplete, and that in fact Article 16 of the Treaty envisioned a much more active and substantive role for the JCG. (Comment. Russia did not raise the three issues it had left as "homework" for delegates at the JCG's last meeting in July. End Comment)

¶4. (SBU) Belarus (Krayushkin) also noted that it had showed its commitment to ACFE by ratifying the Treaty long ago, and referred to the lack of ratification of the adapted treaty as the

"biggest unfulfilled Istanbul Commitment." Belarus expressed hope that a solution would be found on the basis of the Parallel Actions Package.

¶5. (SBU) As coordinated in the NATO-T, Germany (Schweitzer) and the U.S. (Neighbour) criticized Russia for rejecting CFE inspections in August. Eight Allies (France, Turkey, Romania, Bulgaria, the UK, Italy, Portugal, and Denmark) as well as Georgia intervened in support of these statements. Russia remained silent. (Comment. Bulgaria has typically not been a vocal supporter in the JCG of Allied interventions criticizing Russia's rejections of Allied inspections. Bulgaria (Iliev) informed USDel on the margins that it felt compelled to intervene after Russia had commented to Bulgaria that it appeared from Bulgaria's silence in previous JCGs that Bulgaria did not support the U.S. position. End Comment.)

¶6. (SBU) The Chair (Belgium/Kenes) announced that the JCG scheduled for September 22 would be canceled due to the OSCE workshop on SALW which is scheduled for 22-23 September. Finally, The Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, Turkey, Norway,

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Denmark, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Belgium, and the U.S. introduced new members to the JCG.

¶7. (SBU) USDel (Neighbour) presented Ref B readout on A/S Gottemoeller's 3 September talks on CFE with Russia (Antonov) to Allies at the NATO-T held on 8 September.

¶8. (U) The next JCG will be held on 15 September under the chairmanship of Bulgaria. The next NATO-T is planned for 14 September, also under the chairmanship of Bulgaria.

FULLER